

REMARKS

After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-25 are canceled without prejudice to future prosecution and claims 26-60 will be pending for examination.

Support for Amendment to the Specification

In the specification, the paragraph on page 1 appearing under the heading “Cross-Reference to Related Applications,” is amended to update the priority claim of the present continuation application.

Sections of “Brief Description of the Drawings” have been amended to correct inadvertent mistakes in describing certain figures. Support for the amended description regarding FIGS. 3A-3C can be found in the subject drawings themselves and the remainder of the Specification, for example, at page 19, lines 4 to page 20, line 28. Support for the amended description regarding FIGS. 4A-4B can be found in the subject drawings themselves and the remainder of the Specification, for example, at page 24, line 25 to page 25, line 22. The Specification is further amended on page 21 to correct an obvious, typographical mistake. Accordingly, Applicants submit that no new matter is added through the above amendments to the Specification.

Support for the New Claims

Support for the new claims may be found in the specification, for example, at pages 13-19 and 26, FIGS. 1A-1E, 2, and 3A-3I, and claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by the new claims.

Formal Drawings

Twelve (12) sheets of formal drawings are attached at Exhibit A and submitted to replace 12 sheets of informal drawings. Applicants submit that the formal drawings do not introduce any new matter.

Evidence of Copendency

Copies of paperwork (7 Sheets) submitted on March 29, 2004, in the prior application (U.S.S.N. 09/349,806) to petition an extension of time, including copies of fee payment and dated express mail mailing label (EV375067888US), are attached at Exhibit B. As shown by the paperwork, the pendency of the prior application has been extended to and including April 3, 2004, which happens to be a Saturday. Accordingly, since this paper is submitted before Monday April 5, 2004, co-pendency of the present application and the prior application is maintained.


CONCLUSION

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would serve to clarify issues and expedite the prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 2, 2004
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